

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (New) Apparatus for continuously folding a flat plate element along a fold line, said flat plate element having a first section adjacent to and on one side of the fold line and a second section adjacent to and on the opposite side of the fold line, the apparatus comprising means for continuously moving the element in a direction essentially parallel to the fold line thereof, a first impression device and a second impression device, said means for continuously moving the element, moving the element past the devices so that the first section of the element contacts and slides along the first impression device and the second section of the element contacts and slides along the second impression device, the second impression device folding the second section of the element about the fold line during such movement, said second impression device during said folding creating a first force component that acts in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the second section of the element and a second force component extending in the plane of the second section of the element that acts in a direction towards the fold line to press the first section of the element against the first impression device.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the second force component extending in the plane of the second section and acting in the direction towards the fold line is a frictional force between the second impression device and the second section.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein during folding of the element, the second impression device assumes a stationary position relative to the movement of the element along which the second section of the element slides.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the second impression device has at least one roller which contacts the second section during folding.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the second impression device comprises a set of rollers with rollers arranged in a train in the direction of movement of the element, which set of rollers contact the second section during folding.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the axes of the rollers of the second impression device are substantially parallel to the second section during folding.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the rollers of the second impression device can be swiveled about the fold line and/or rotated about an axis perpendicular to the second section of the element.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the at least one roller has a contact surface having a high friction coefficient.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 15 or 18, wherein the first impression device has at least one roller which contacts the first section during folding.